

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING MARCH 8, 2019, AS "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Nesselbush, Quezada, Crowley, Lawson, and Gallo

Date Introduced: March 07, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, International Women's Day has been observed since the early 1900s, at a
2 time when women's oppression and inequality were causing women to become more vocal,
3 active, and demanding of change; and

4 WHEREAS, The first National Women's Day was observed in the United States on
5 February 28, 1909, in honor of the 1908 garment worker's strike in New York City, where women
6 protested and demanded shorter hours, better pay, and voting rights; and

7 WHEREAS, The first countries to honor International Women's Day in 1911 were
8 Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland, where together more than one million women and
9 men attended International Women's Day rallies campaigning for women's rights to work, vote,
10 hold public office, and to end discrimination in general; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed, once and for all,
12 throughout the world, March 8th as International Women's Day, a day that is celebrated in the
13 United States and the world; and

14 WHEREAS, International Women's Day has, since then and more recently, assumed
15 even larger national and international dimensions for women in developed and developing
16 countries alike; and

17 WHEREAS, The United Nations has declared the 2019 theme for the International
18 Women's Day celebration to be #BalancedForBetter, demanding more balanced government,
19 boardrooms, courtrooms, pay parity and wealth. Gender balance is essential if our state, our

1 nation and our world are to thrive; and

2 WHEREAS, Gender parity unfortunately remains elusive with white women earning
3 approximately 82 cents for every man's dollar, and with women of color faring even worse; and

4 WHEREAS, Gender parity is further elusive, with sexual harassment and gender violence
5 remaining pervasive problems, as demonstrated by the sweeping #MeToo and #TimesUp
6 Movements; and

7 WHEREAS, Although those statistics can be daunting and dim, there are nonetheless
8 numerous bright spots which we recognize and celebrate today. One of those bright spots is that
9 Rhode Island has not one, not two, not three and not four, but five female University and/or
10 College Presidents, and for that reason, the Rhode Island General Assembly has chosen "Women
11 in Higher Education," as this year's theme for International Women's Day; and

12 WHEREAS, Those five female Presidents are Christina Paxson, President of Brown
13 University; Dr. Meghan Hughes, President of the Community College of Rhode Island; Mim L.
14 Runey, Chancellor of Johnson and Wales University; Rosanne Somerson, President of the Rhode
15 Island School of Design; and Dr. Jane Gerety, RSM, President of Salve Regina University; now,
16 therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
18 hereby recognizes these five prestigious, smart, elite and distinguished women who have blazed
19 educational trails and broken glass ceilings to land at the top of their institutions. This Rhode
20 Island Senate encourages all citizens to celebrate and pay tribute to the contributions of these
21 women, and all women, nationally and in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby recognizes March 8, 2019, as "International
23 Women's Day" in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
25 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the first woman Governor of the State of Rhode
26 Island, the Honorable Gina Raimondo.

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